

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-07 CEA-01 AGRE-00 ACDA-12 DODE-00 EPA-01

CEQ-01 HA-05 PM-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 /155 W

-----026629 051454Z /47

R 051345Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 512

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 026

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, ECON, PARM, CF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO'S MAY DAY SPEECH; MAY DAY PARADE

1. PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO'S HOUR-LONG MAY DAY SPEECH STRESSED POINT THAT, WITH STEPS NOW HAVING BEEN TAKEN TO MAKE THE GOVERNMENT RUN MORE SMOOTHLY, IT IS INCUMBENT UPON AGRICULTURAL AND STATE ENTERPRISE SECTORS TO INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTION THROUGH HARDER WORK, GREATER EFFICIENCY, AND LESS CORRUPTION. HE APPEALED FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF THE TWO-YEAR PLAN JUST APPROVED (COPY TO BE FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT UPON ITS PUBLICATION), THEN CRITICIZED CURRENT OPERATIONS OF CONGOLESE STATE ENTERPRISES. MANY SUCH ENTERPRISES, HE NOTED, RATHER THAN CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL BUDGET, ASK FOR SUBSIDIES FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT; THIS IS CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE.

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2. YHOMBY-OPANGO ATTACKED "ECONOMIC SABOTAGE" AND CORRUPTION AS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE PROBLEMS, SPECIFYING THAT THE 60-ODD STATE ENTERPRISES ARE 11 BILLION CFA (US DOLS 480 MILLION) IN DEBT. "LET US NOT BATHE TWICE IN THE SAME RIVER;" WE CANNOT IN 1978 REPEAT OUR PAST PERFORMANCE AND THEN AWAIT MIRACLES FROM OVERSEAS. NOTHING IS GIVEN OR LOANED WITHOUT SOMETHING

BEING ASKED IN RETURN, AND THAT PRICE IS THE CONTRADICTION OF THE LIBERTY FOR WHICH WE HAVE MADE OUR REVOLUTION, SAID YHOMBY.

3. ON THE AGRICULTURAL SIDE, HE STATED, CONGOLESE MUST REACH 1958 LEVEL OF PRODUCTION; AGRICULTURAL SECTOR'S OUTPUT FELL FROM 21,600 TONS IN 1965 TO 10,000 TONS IN 1975. ONLY 190,000 HECTARES OF A TOTAL OF 8.2 MILLION ARABLE HECTARES ARE BEING CULTIVATED. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION MUST BE BASED ON THE EXPANSION OF 4 KEY CROPS: RICE, MAIZE, COFFEE, AND COCOA. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MUST COME BEFORE INDUSTRY. ALL MUST MAKE SACRIFICES. CONTINUING ON THEME DEVELOPED AT OPENING OF LABOR CONGRESS (BRAZZAVILLE 542), PRESIDENT ASKED GOVERNMENT TO STUDY PRINCIPLE OF A CONTINUOUS WORK DAY (6:20 A.M. TO 1 P.M.) FOR ALL WORKERS IN STATE ENTERPRISES, IN ORDER THAT THOSE WORKERS MAY SPEND AFTERNOONS AT COLLECTIVE MANUAL LABOR, INTELLECTUALS THEREBY WORKING WITH MANUAL LABORERS.

4. YHOMBY THEN SKATED LIGHTLY OVER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, INCLUDING SAHARA, NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE, HORN OF AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST. HE SAVED MUCH OF HIS TIME AT END OF SPEECH FOR STATEMENT CONCERNING UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA ON DISARMAMENT. WITHOUT SPECIFYING SASSOU-NGUESSO, YHOMBY SAID THAT CONGO WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT A HIGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEVEL, AND POINTED OUT THAT CONGO HAD JUST RATIFIED TREATIES AGAINST UNDERGROUND AND UNDERWATER PLACEMENT OF NUCLEAR ARMS, HAD RATIFIED THE NPT, HAD APPROVED CONVENTION AGAINST BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS, AND HAD RATIFIED CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION. YHOMBY APPEALED FOR END TO NUCLEAR ARMS TESTING IN ATMOSPHERE, SPACE, UNDER WATER AND UNDER GROUND. (FYI: LOCAL MEDIA HAVE BEEN DEVOTING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION LATELY TO CRITICISM OF NEUTRON BOMB, WHILE HAILING BREZHNEV'S DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS. SUGGESTIONS STATE 110723 ARE BEING USED. END FYI.) FULL TEXT OF YHOMBY SPEECH BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT (AF/C-KATES).

5. MAY 1 PARADE WAS A THREE AND-A-HALF-HOUR EVENT FEATURING ALL ELEMENTS OF CONGOLESE POLITICAL LIFE: ARMY, LABOR, WOMEN, STUDENTS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, ARTISTS AND WRITERS, ETC. MORE PEOPLE PARADED THAN WATCHED. ACTIVITIES BEGAN WITH ANNOUNCER TRACING ORIGIN OF MAY DAY CELEBRATION TO CHICAGO, 1884, UNFORTUNATELY DESCRIBING 30,000 AMERICAN WORKERS AS HAVING BEEN BRUTALIZED BY MANAGEMENT THAT DAY. (WE CORRECTED RECORD PRIVATELY THEREAFTER). WORKERS OF SPAIN WERE ENCOURAGED TO PRESS FOR RIGHTS,

PUERTO RICO WAS NOT MENTIONED. DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY
AND GOVERNMENT WORKERS WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT YHOMBY-
OPANGO AND MILITARY COMMITTEE AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE
FOLLOWING PARADE.
KATZEN

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